Creation of Posts in IA

940. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the "PATRIKA" dated the 15th May, 2000 captioned "CAG raps IA for creating more posts and hiking expenditure",

(b) whether these posts have been created without proper basis or logic and entailing heavy expenditure on them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken on the observations of CAG?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Airline has been advised to conduct study for restructuring the top level posts with a view to consciously reduce and rationalise the posts at the level of General Manager and above. It is also to be attempted to see whether some of the posts are to be clubbed together keeping in mind the workload of identical nature. Indian Airlines has further been directed that the vacancies caused at the top level should not be filled till the completion of the process.

Agreement between India and UK on Air India's Operations

941. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BARGODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government has been pressing for removal of restrictions on Air India for picking up passengers from London to US and Canada;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed between Indian and UK Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) At the Inter-Governmental talks between India

and U.K. held in February, 2000, an agreement has been reached to remove the various restrictions earlier applicable on the exercise of traffic rights by Air India beyond London to USA and Canada. According *to* the new agreement, Air India is entitled to operate 16 frequencies per week either as transits or terminators to London with beyond 5th freedom rights to USA and Canada.

Concession to Senior Citizens by AI

942. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to allow the senior citizens the concessional air fare *in* Air India too as in Indian Airlines for their travel abroad on tourist visa; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) All international fares are established only when they are unanimously agreed by all airlines at the Tariff Coordination Conferences of International Air Transport Association (IATA) and subsequently approved by all Governments concerned. It is because of lack of agreement amongst airlines that concession in International air fare for senior citizens has not been introduced by any international airline including Air India and Indian Airlines (on international routes). Air India has also competitive market fares for international and domestic travel which are also applicable to the senior citizens.

New International Airport in Mumbai

943. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to build new International Airport at Revas-Mandava near Mumbai in Maharashtra;